

# Glossary



## Pronunciation Key

When difficult names or terms first appear in the text, they are respelled to aid pronunciation. A syllable in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS receives the most stress. The key below lists the letters used for respelling. It includes examples of words using each sound and shows how the words would be respelled.

Symbol	Example	Respelling
a	hat	(hat)
ay	pay, late	(pay), (layt)
ah	star, hot	(stahr), (haht)
ai	air, dare	(air), (dair)
aw	law, all	(law), (awl)
eh	met	(meht)
ee	bee, eat	(bee), (eet)
er	learn, sir, fur	(lern), (ser), (fer)
ih	fit	(fiht)
igh	mile, sigh	(mighl), (sigh)
oh	no	(noh)
oi	soil, boy	(soil), (boi)
oo	root, rule	(root), (rool)
or	born, door	(born), (dor)
ow	plow, out	(plow), (owt)

Symbol	Example	Respelling
u	put, book	(put), (buk)
uh	fun	(fuhn)
yoo	few, use	(fyoo), (yooz)
ch	chill, reach	(chihl), (reech)
g	go, dig	(goh), (dihg)
j	jet, gently, bridge	(jeht), (JEHNT-lee), (brihj)
k	kite, cup	(kight), (kuhp)
ks	mix	(mihks)
kw	quick	(kwihk)
ng	bring	(brihng)
s	say, cent	(say), (sehnt)
sh	she, crash	(shee), (krash)
th	three	(three)
y	yet, onion	(yeht), (UHN-yuhn)
z	zip, always	(zihp), (AWL-wayz)
zh	treasure	(TREH-zher)

**biogeography:** the study of where plants and animals live throughout the world

**biological clock:** an internal timer that keeps track of a cycle of time and helps an organism stay in step with rhythmic cycles of change in the environment

**biome:** a division based on climate, plants, and animals; an environment that has a characteristic type of climax community

**canopy:** the layer of a forest biome that consists of the tops of trees; the "roof" of a forest

**captive breeding:** the practice of getting animals in zoos to have offspring

● **carbon cycle:** the cyclical series of processes in which carbon moves through the living and non-living parts of the environment

**climax community:** the stable community that is the final stage of succession

● **commensalism:** a form of symbiosis in which one organism benefits and the other is not harmed

● **community:** the living part of an ecosystem

● **competition:** the type of interaction in which organisms struggle with one another to obtain resources

**conifer:** a plant, usually an evergreen tree, that produces its seeds in cones

● **consumer:** an organism that cannot make its own food

● **decomposer:** an organism that breaks down the bodies of dead organisms into simpler substances

**deforestation:** the destruction of forests

**desertification** (dih-zert-uh-fih-KAY-shuhn): the process in which desertlike conditions are created where there had been none in the recent past

**dispersal**: the movement of living things from one place to others; spreading out

**diurnal** (digh-ER-nuhl): active during the day

**ecological succession**: the process in which the community in a particular place is gradually replaced by another community

● **ecology**: the study of the relationships and interactions of living things with one another and with their environment

● **ecosystem**: a unit consisting of all the living and nonliving things in a given area that interact with one another

**endangered**: in danger of becoming extinct

● **environment**: all the living and nonliving things with which an organism may interact

**estivation**: a summer resting state

**estuary** (EHS-tyoo-air-ee): an environment found at the boundary between fresh water and salt water that contains a mixture of fresh water and salt water

**exotic species**: a species that is not native to a place

**extinct**: no longer in existence; used to describe subspecies, species, and so on, in which there are no living individuals

● **food chain**: a representation of a series of events in which food energy and matter are transferred from one organism to another

● **food web**: a diagram that consists of many overlapping food chains

**freshwater biome**: the biome that consists of the Earth's bodies of fresh water, such as lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers

● **habitat**: the place in which an organism lives and obtains the resources it needs to survive

**hibernation**: a winter resting state

● **host**: an organism that provides a home for another organism; in parasitism, the organism that is harmed by the parasite

**marine biome**: the ocean biome

**migration**: the movement of organisms from one place to another in response to periodic envi-

ronmental changes; usually refers to cyclical movements

● **mutualism**: a form of symbiosis in which both organisms benefit

● **niche** (NIHCH): an organism's role in an ecosystem, which includes everything the organism does and everything the organism needs in its environment

● **nitrogen cycle**: the cyclical series of processes in which nitrogen moves from the nonliving parts of the environment to living things and back again

**nocturnal** (nahk-TER-nuhl): active during the night

● **oxygen cycle**: the cyclical series of processes in which oxygen moves through the living and nonliving parts of the environment

● **parasite**: an organism that lives on or inside the body of a host organism and harms the host

● **parasitism**: a form of symbiosis in which one organism benefits and the other is harmed

**permafrost**: the layer of permanently frozen soil in the tundra

**phytoplankton**: microscopic producers (organisms that can make their own food) that live near the surface of the ocean and other bodies of water

● **population**: a group of organisms of the same species living together in the same area

● **predator**: an organism that kills and eats another organism

● **prey**: an organism that is eaten by a predator

● **producer**: an organism that is able to make its own food by using a source of energy to turn simple raw materials into food

● **symbiosis** (sihm-bigh-OH-sihs; plural: symbioses): a close relationship between two organisms in which one organism lives near, on, or even inside another organism and in which at least one organism benefits

**taiga**: the northernmost coniferous forest biome

● **water cycle**: the cyclical series of processes in which water moves through the living and nonliving parts of the environment

**wildlife conservation**: the intelligent management of living resources so that they provide the greatest possible benefit for the longest possible time

Acciden  
specie  
Adaptat  
proce  
time  
Annual  
estiva  
hiber  
migra  
Bacteri  
G57-  
Barrier  
ecolo  
water  
Biogeog  
barrie  
defin  
dispe  
G7.  
Biologi  
Biologi  
annu  
biolo  
daily  
lunar  
natu  
Biome:  
deser  
fores  
grass  
natu  
tund  
water.  
Camel  
Canop  
G81  
Captiv  
Carbo:  
G56-  
Clima:  
Comr  
Comr  
clim  
repl  
su  
Comp  
adaj  
Conif  
Conif  
Const  
Cycles  
ecol  
Cycle:  
natu  
nitr  
oxy  
G